NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE

NEWS

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Highlights from the Regents' Meeting

The NLM Board of Regents met at the Library on January 29-30 to discuss and advise on selected NLM activities and to review applications for grants under the Medical Library Assistance Act. The Regents heard **Thomas E. Malone**, M.D., Deputy Director of the National Institutes of Health, discuss the prospects for the NIH during the coming period of budget austerity.

Following Dr. Malone, NLM Director **Martin M. Cummings,** M.D., briefed the Regents about NLM's current budget and the proposed 1982 budget, the level of staffing, workload trends, and other items of management concern. Especially important this year, Dr. Cummings said, is the question of renewing the authorities of the Medical Library Assistant Act. The Act, originally passed by Congress in 1965 and renewed periodically since, authorizes NLM to award grants for the establishment of Regional Medical Libraries and for medical library resources, research, training, and publications. Unless extended by Congress, the Act will expire on September 30 of this year. The Regents, after discussion, unanimously passed a resolution to be sent to Secretary Schweiker urging him to seek the introduction of legislation that would extend the Act.

Also on the agenda were discussions of NLM's planning activities, the functions of the National Medical Audiovisual Center, the economic impact of online services on data base creators, the Laboratory Animal Data Bank, NLM's involvement with the behavioral sciences, MEDLARS III, and various items relating to the grant program.

On the evening of January 29 the Regents, NLM staff, and their guests were treated to a tour of the Library of Congress and its new Madison building. *Ex officio* Regent **William J. Welsh**, the Deputy Librarian of Congress, was the host for the tour and the dinner that followed.

Grant Awarded to Study Information-Seeking Skills

A three-year NLM research grant to analyze how medical students, physicians, and librarians seek out information has been awarded to the University of New Mexico Medical Center Library. The study's researchers will categorize common clinical information problems faced by practicing physicians and develop problem-based instructional tools to teach information-seeking skills.

Diana Northup, Chief of Education and Instruction Programs at the University of New Mexico Medical Center Library, is the principal investigator for the project. She will be assisted by a biostatistician and a medical sociologist from the University of New Mexico, an education specialist and a cognitive psychologist from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and by a number of medical librarians throughout the country.

A student or physician confronted with a specific information problem has a variety of human, print, and nonprint resources available. To simulate these resources in biomedicine, Ms. Northup and her research team are developing "information problem card decks." These decks—which are being adapted from instructional decks first developed at McMaster Uni-

Cont. p. 2

NATIONAL LIBRARY of MEDICINE
NEWS

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From p. 1

versity in Canada and now extensively used by the University of New Mexico—will help the researchers analyze the mental processes involved in making information choices, as well as the appropriateness of these choices. As insights are gained about the typical information-seeking habits of students and physicians, these decks, essentially research tools, will be modified to help teach information-seeking skills.

For more information, write:

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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

Publication Notes

National Library of Medicine Current Catalog, 1980 Annual Cumulation. This casebound publication is a listing, by subject and name/title of monographs and serials cataloged by the Library in 1980. (It supersedes the 1980 quarterly issues; it is not included with a subscription to the quarterlies but must be ordered separately.) Orders with remittance should be sent to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Price: $23 ($28.75 foreign). Stock Number 017-052-00219-8. (Publication date: late March.)

National Library of Medicine Audiovisuals Catalog, 1980 Annual Cumulation. This casebound cumulation is a listing of audiovisual materials cataloged by NLM in 1980 and includes citations to selected titles reviewed by the Association of American Medical Colleges during the year. (Note: all subscribers to the *NLM AV Catalog*, 1980 quarterly issues, receive this annual automatically in lieu of a fourth quarterly.) The annual *NLM AV Catalog*, containing subject, name/title, and procurement source sections, is derived from AVLINE—the Library's computerized data base of bibliographic information on AV items used in health sciences education at the college level and for the continuing education of practitioners. Order from the Superintendent of Documents. Price: $11 ($13.75 foreign). S/N 017-052-72090-2.

NLM Audiovisuals Catalog, 1981. To place a subscription for the 1981 issues (3 quarterlies, plus annual cumulation), send your order to the Superintendent of Documents. Price: $24 ($30 foreign). For more information and a sample quarterly issue, send a self-addressed label to: Office of Inquiries (AV), National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD 20209.

Notes for Medical Catalogers, 1981. For the past few years, *Notes* has been prepared annually by NLM for distribution by the Medical Library Association (MLA). Beginning this year, however, *Notes* will not be distributed by MLA, but will appear as a separate, removable portion of each issue of the quarterly *NLM Current Catalog* (GPO, $18 per year). This will enable the Library to announce NLM cataloging changes in a more timely fashion, especially as they relate to the *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules*, 2nd edition. The quarterly sections of *Notes* will be cumulated each year for publication by the National Technical Information Service; ordering information will be announced in the *NLM News* and the *MLA News*.

Annual Report Available

The Library's latest annual report—with statistics and program descriptions for activities between October 1, 1979 and September 30, 1980—may be obtained without charge from NLM's Office of Inquiries. (Note: copies are being sent automatically to all institutional members of the Medical Library Association.) For a copy of *NLM Programs and Services, Fiscal Year 1980*, send a self-addressed mailing label to:

Office of Inquiries
ATTN: REPORT 80
National Library of Medicine
Bethesda, Maryland 20209

Ten Hubert H. Humphrey fellows, shown above with Frances Humphrey Howard (center), recently spent a day on the NIH campus visiting scientists and touring the facilities. The visit included a tour of NLM and a meeting with Mrs. Howard, sister of the late Vice President and Special Assistant to the Library's Associate Director for Extramural Programs. The ten fellows were part of the 1980-81 group of 82 Hubert H. Humphrey fellows selected by the Board of Foreign Scholarships from areas auch as agriculture, health and nutrition, and public administration. Assigned to Howard or Tulane University, or to the University of Michigan, the fellows are in the United States for a one-year work/study program in public health.

NLM in the Literature

The following citations were retrieved from the January/February MEDLINE file. They point to recent articles in which the National Library of Medicine (or its products and services) is discussed.

Bernstein LM, Siegel ER, Koff RS, et al: The hepatitis knowledge base (short form). Ann Intern Med 1980 Jul; 93(1 Pt 2):183–222

Bernstein LM, Siegel ER, Goldstein CM: The hepatitis knowledge base. A prototype information transfer system. Ann Intern Med 1980 Jul;93(1 Pt 2):169–81

The Hepatitis Knowledge Base is a prototype computerized information–transfer system aimed at supporting the health practitioner's day–to–day diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment decisions concerned with viral hepatitis. An overview of information–transfer problems in biomedicine is presented and issues pertinent to the knowledge–base concept are discussed. The following research activities are described: selection and organization of the content of the initial draft of the complete Hepatitis Knowledge Base; the method for consensus development by a nationally distributed panel of collaborating experts on the subject matter; methods for updating the knowledge base and maintaining its currency over time; use of a computer conferencing network as the principal medium of communication among the geographically dispersed experts and the project staff; support of on–line access to the knowledge–base contents; and formative evaluation of the above methods and limited field testing of the access system.

Cusworth DC: A computer–based index of metabolic diseases. J Inherited Metab Dis 1980;3(3):81–2

Kowitz A: Dental school libraries [letter] Aust Dent J 1980 Jun;25(3):175–6

McGee JL: A MEDLINE feasibility study. Bull Med Libr Assoc 1980 Jul;68(3):278–87

A MEDLINE feasibility study was conducted with the Northeastern Consortium for Health Information (NECHI) and sponsored by the New England Regional Medical Library Service. It is based on the theory that most potential users and supporters of MEDLINE within hospitals are unaware of its usefulness and applications, and that there exists a need for expanding MEDLINE services to more hospital libraries. The purpose of the study was to provide NECHI with an evaluation of MEDLINE as a feasible service by ascertaining the need and by evaluating the usefulness, satisfaction, and costs of the system. The study demonstrated sufficient use of MEDLINE to justify implementation within NECHI and it provided useful data to determine the future of MEDLINE in each institution. It documented that utilization improved rapidly with publicity and the presence of the system within an institution, that MEDLINE can be an effective and economical complement to the traditional reference services used to support information needs in hospitals, and that more hospital libraries should be able to implement MEDLINE to their advantage once potential users and supporters have been exposed to the system.

Uchida H: Information system, data bases, and on–line services of the Japan Information Center of Science and Technology (JICST). J Chem Inf Comput Sci 1979 Nov; 19(4):199–201

The JICST information processing system consists of the data–base production system, authority file management system, bibliographic retrieval system, and printed issue compiling system. The bibliographic retrieval service based on the JICST On–line Information System (JOIS–I) has been available through leased line since 1976 and now also through dial–up line, which covers five data bases: the JICST bibliographic and on–going research information files, CA Condensates, MEDLARS, and TOXLINE files. The on–line output in Japanese kanji is also available. The newly revised JOIS–II system is now being developed.

Personnel Notes

NLM Executive Officer **Philip Amoruso** left NLM in January to become the Executive Officer of NIH's National Cancer Institute. **Kenneth Carney**, NLM's Deputy Executive Officer, has been named Acting Executive Officer. Other staff changes are listed below:

Gains

- Brenda Brisco, Secretary, National Medical Audiovisual Center
- Merlin Brubaker, M.D., PHS Commissioned Officer, NMAC
- Patricia Clark, Librarian, Bibliographic Services Division
- Joan Fallon, Secretary, Office of the Director
- Joseph Fitzgerald, AV Production Officer, NMAC
- Ken Grant, Computer Systems Analyst, Library Operations
- Gerard Guthrie, Computer Specialist, Specialized Information Services
- Charlene Hess, Computer Systems Analyst, SIS
- Karlton Jackson, Computer Equipment Analyst, Lister Hill Center
- Eileen Lardner, Secretary, NMAC
- Suzanne Mayse, Program Assistant, LHC
- Carolyn McHale, Technical Information Specialist, SIS
- Miriam Perkins, Chemist, SIS
- Nancy Sparacino, Secretary, NMAC
- Clara Stern, Secretary, LHC
- Sandra White, Secretary, Office of the Director

Losses

- Kathryn Brown, Secretary, Office of the Director
- Frances James, Clerk, Reference Services Division
- John King, Education Specialist, National Medical Audiovisual Center
- Stanley Lewicki, Library Technician, Technical Services Division
- Linda Massey, Personnel Management Specialist, Office of Administration
- Eleanor Rice, Training Clerk, NMAC
- Robert Sumpter, Program Analyst, NMAC
- Judy Zangardi, Secretary, Lister Hill Center

Serial Gap List

NLM regularly solicits the help of the medical library community in filling gaps in its serial collections. If you can provide any of these items we would be most grateful. Please address them to:

National Library of Medicine
TSD—Gaps
Bethesda, Maryland 20209

Bulletin of Prosthetics Research Nos. 25-26, 1976
Hospital Engineering 19: Jul/Aug 1974; 20: No. 2 & Nov/Dec 1975; 23: 4-6, 1978; 24: 6, 1979
Journal of Investigative Dermatology 40: 1-3, 1963
Long Term Care and Health Services Administration Quarterly 1: 2, 4, 1977; 2: 2, 4, 1978; 3: 1, 1979; 4: 1, 1980
Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology 3: 5, 1979